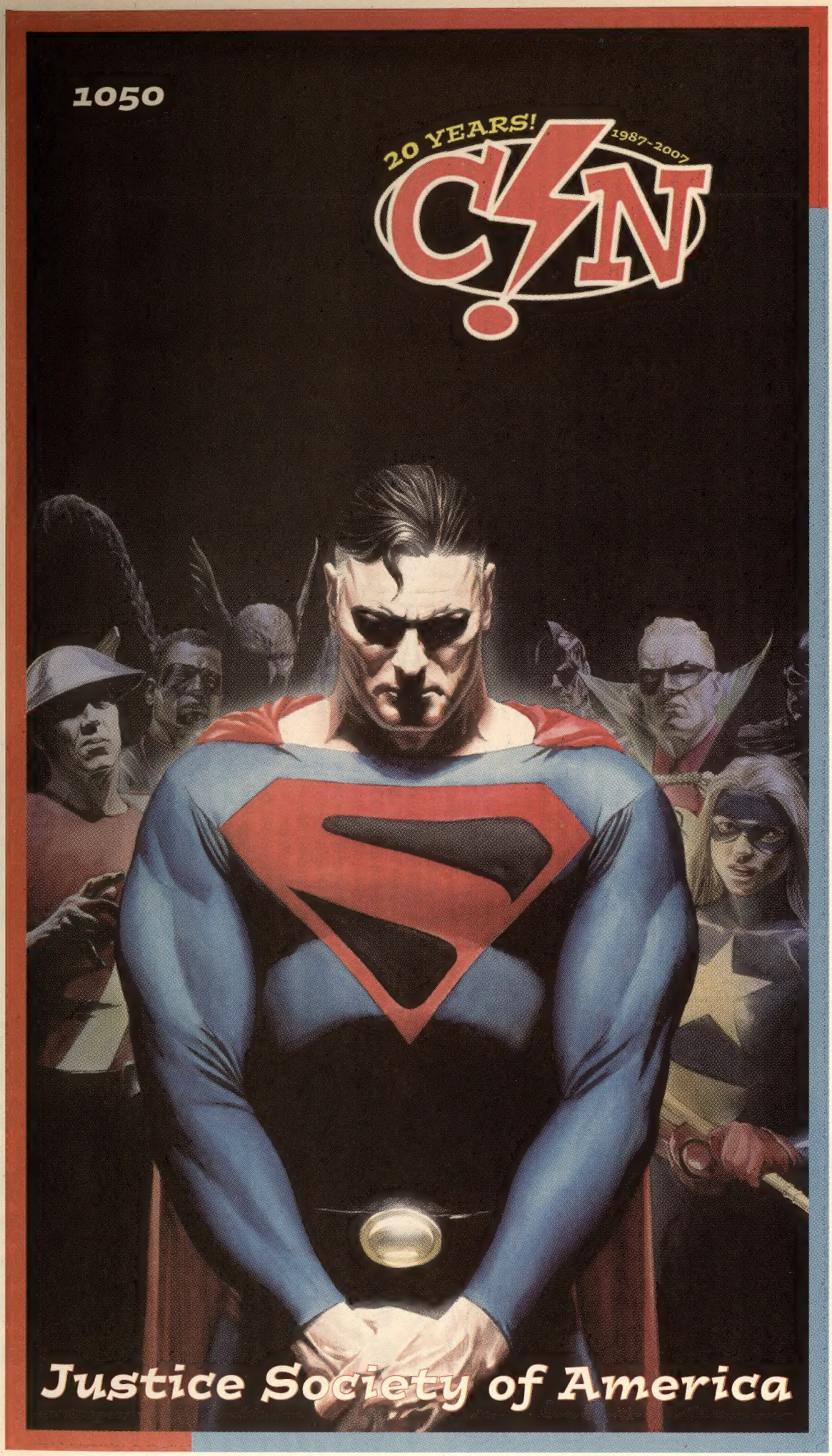
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Justice Society of America

The Justice Society of America has some pretty impressive heroes in its ranks—but they're about to amp up their power significantly with the addition of a member with powers and abilities far beyond those of ordinary men.

You got it—in October, Superman becomes the newest member of the Justice Society! However, it's a bit more complicated than it first sounds...

The Superman who joins the team in ***Justice Society of America #10*** isn't the same Man of Steel who's been a part of the Justice League since its relaunch... nor is he the Golden Age Superman who played a vital role in ***Infinite Crisis.***

No, this is the ***Kingdom Come*** Superman, as created by *Mark Waid & Alex Ross,* a solemn avatar of heroism and righteousness in a world plagued by heroes gone extreme... and now he's making a new home in the DCU in a multi-part tale that DC promises is "not a hoax! Not a dream! Not an imaginary story!"

No one can say that DC didn't at least hint at this surprising plot twist—after all, the ***Kingdom Come*** Superman was featured on the final "preview page" of ***Justice Society of America #1,*** painted by none other than *Alex Ross* himself. And way back then, ***Justice Society*** writer *Geoff Johns* and Ross had this tale in mind. "'Thy Kingdom Come' is a storyline Alex and I have talked about since he first started doing covers for ***JSA*** a few years ago," Johns said. "Alex had ideas that went far beyond ***Kingdom Come***—ideas that he never got to use. And I had ideas for what ***Kingdom Come*** meant in context to the Justice Society. We've let the storyline sit until it was the right time. With the relaunch of the ***Justice Society of America*** and what's come out of ***52,*** it became the right time."

brings a second Superman into the DC Universe? "It took time to line this up—and of course, I wanted to get *Mark Waid's* okay," Johns said. As far as DC was concerned, though, there was no doubt that this was a plotline they wanted Johns and Ross to explore.

Just how will the DC's heroes react to the addition of another Man of Steel... a sadder, wiser, and more experienced Superman? "Well, let's put it in context," Johns said. "The last 'alternate' Superman they met was condemning them for wasting their potential. He was antagonistic towards Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman. His appearance here made them reflect on what it was to do what they do. And ironically, he helped inspire the JSA's new modus operandi and new motto: 'The world needs better good guys.' That Superman's arrival signaled a *huge* change in the DCU. So what will they think of this one?..."

For Thine Is the Power...

Of course, Superman isn't the first ***Kingdom Come*** character to play a role in the JSA; Starman, a founding member of the new team, came to this world from the KCU. And there were even hints that something of this nature might occur: last year, prior the launch of ***Justice Society of America,*** *Alex Ross* told *Matt Brady* that "the relaunch would lead into storylines that we have been planning, regarding bringing some elements of ***Kingdom Come*** characters into the JSA.

"Back when Geoff had first invited me to be a part of the series, I said to Geoff that he had a great group of characters, but he didn't have a Starman," Ross said. "'I love my ***Kingdom Come*** Starman, so could we bring him into this?' That was the one boon that I asked. Of course, I'm greedy, so I didn't stop there, and we've talked about a million different story possibilities since then, and that's where we're hoping to take the series, and to fulfill some of these things and the promises they would deliver on..." And now one of those possibilities comes to fruition as one of Ross's most fondly-remembered characters returns.

While "Thy Kingdom Come" is firmly set in the DCU, Johns said that "you *will* get glimpses of the ***Kingdom Come*** universe. Alex is even going to paint pages within the storyline to reflect it. He's painted new panels here and there in the first several issues of ***Justice Society of America***; now he's tackling more than that."

More than just providing inspiration and a few pieces of art, "Alex is co-plotting the storyline," Johns said. "I'll handle the full scripting chores. Alex will be supplying covers and interior pages, panels and design work here and there."

Readers who'd like to follow the story from the very beginning might not want to wait until ***Justice Society #10,*** however. "The first chapter, the prologue, actually starts in ***Justice Society of America #9,***" Johns said.

Was it tough to get everyone "on board" with a storyline that

Will the DCU Superman welcome his ***Kingdom Come*** counterpart, or will he be wary of this visitor from another part of the multiverse? "His first question is going to be, 'What does this other Superman want?'" Johns said. "Why is he here? What is he going to do now that he *is* here?"

What about those close to Superman? Will they welcome this new Man of Steel? And will they be curious about the fates of their ***Kingdom Come*** counterparts? "There will be interaction because the ***Kingdom Come*** Superman sees many things that are familiar to him... and many things that are different. Think of his experience in his reality—heroes went bad and the Earth suffered for it. He didn't get involved earlier enough. What does he think of our Earth and our heroes?"

Is it possible that he has come to this world to ensure that the fate of his own reality doesn't befall the DCU? "That remains to be seen," Johns said.

And when he comes to the DCU, "the chances are very good" that he will bring something—or someone—else from the ***Kingdom Come*** world with him, Johns added.

Will the Justice Society pay a visit to the ***Kingdom Come*** Universe at some point? "All I can say is keep your eyes open," Johns said, adding that "you'll also see a handful of new legacy characters popping up this year in ***Justice Society of America,*** beginning with a beautiful cover on issue #12 that reveals them."

Is there a chance that other heroes from other multiverses might be joining the Justice Society? "You'll see a kind of *reverse* of that," John said. "How's *that* for a tease?"

Asked whether this would a permanent addition to the Justice Society's roster, Johns replied succinctly, "The ***Kingdom Come*** Superman joins the team in issue #10. I'll leave it at that."

Justice Society of America #9, a prologue issue written by *Geoff Johns* and illustrated by *Dale Eaglesham & Ruy Jose,* is scheduled for September 5th release. ***Justice Society of America #10,*** the first segment of "Thy Kingdom Come," plotted by *Geoff Johns & Alex Ross,* scripted by Johns, and illustrated by *Dale Eaglesham & Ruy Jose,* follows on October 3rd. This book will be offered with two covers: a standard edition featuring a cover by *Alex Ross,* and a 1:10 variant edition featuring cover art by Eaglesham & Jose.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

CSNsider

•That *Stephen King* guy sure can sell books, can't he? Marvel is going back to press with a third printing of ***Stephen King's Dark Tower: Gunslinger Born #1*** (featuring a wraparound *Jae Lee* cover), a third printing of ***Gunslinger Born #2*** (featuring a *Jae Lee* variant cover), and a second printing of ***Gunslinger Born #3*** (featuring a *John Romita Jr.* variant cover). Look for 'em next week.

•When ***Zorro*** joins the Dynamite schedule, it'll be helmed by *Matt Wagner*, who'll supply cover art for the series, act as art director... *and* write the first story arc! "It's no secret that I've got an overwhelming fondness for these older, classic characters, and that I've always loved the 'lone fighter for justice' motif that lies at the core of almost every superhero tale," Wagner told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Matt Brady*. "I had seen Dynamite's revamp of the Lone Ranger and thought it really clicked on so many levels... so, when I read that Dynamite had recently acquired the rights to ***Zorro***... I immediately got in contact with them and eagerly offered my services as cover artist—something I've almost never done in the past... When [publisher *Nick Barrucci*] got back in touch with me, it was to offer an even bigger part in the play. Nick wanted to know if I would come onboard as the book's art director (the same role *John Cassaday* has filled on the ***Lone Ranger***) and if I was at all interested in writing the first storyline. So, the question was...would I be willing to take a shot at redefining Zorro's origin? It didn't take me long to say, 'Hell, yeah!'"

•*Oowee oowee ooh...* Spaghetti Western fans, it's your week: Dynamite Publishing has acquired the rights to produce comics starring the Man with No Name, the hero portrayed by *Clint Eastwood* in ***The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly*** and other *Sergio Leone* films. While no artist has been named yet, we can confirm that *Christos Gage* has signed on to write the saga of the serape-wearing Western hero when it debuts in late 2007 or early 2008.

•Remember last week, when we told you that *Rob Liefeld* had a big deal in the works to bring back ***Youngblood?*** Well, the deal has been made—and the publisher will be (are you ready?) Image Comics, the original home of ***Youngblood*** back in the 1990's. "Youngblood started at Image and kicked off the company in high gear," Image founding partner and current publisher *Erik Larsen* said. "I really wouldn't want to see it continue anywhere else, and I'm sure fans will join me in enthusiastically welcoming *Rob Liefeld* and ***Youngblood*** back to the fold. 'Nuff said." The series will begin with a remastered version of ***Maximum Youngblood*** later this year, followed by a new ***Youngblood*** series in 2008.

•***Green Lantern: Sinestro Corps Special #1*** is going back to press for a *third* printing, this one featuring a recolored version of *Ethan Van Sciver's* cover art. It should be in stores at the same time as this issue of ***CSN***—but don't count on it being there for long! (And don't be surprised if the already-sold-out ***Green Lantern #21,*** continuing the "Sinestro Corps" story arc, doesn't get a second printing in the next week or two.)

•***Madame Mirage #1,*** *Paul Dini's* new superhero-noir series, has sold out; a second printing, featuring a new *Greg Horn* cover, should be in stores this week.

•Blast from the past: more than a year after the release of the second issue, *Damon Lindelof* says that he has finished the script for ***Ultimate Wolverine Vs. Hulk #s 3 & 4,*** and he should wrap up #5 any week now. (Marvel has said that they will resolicit the final issues once all six books are completed.)

Coming Comics—DC in October

Gary Frank begins his run as series artist in ***Action Comics #858,*** joining *Geoff Johns* for the extra-length first chapter of "Superman and the Legion of Super-Heroes." Fresh from "The Lightning Saga," the original Legion of Super-Heroes returns! When he was a boy, Clark Kent was isolated and alone until he met this teen team from the 31st Century. Today, it's been years since Superman saw his childhood friends. Why haven't they returned to visit him? What's become of the symbol of Superman in the future? And just why is the future so dangerous for Superman?

Is Ra's al Ghul destined to rise again? Since the title of *Grant Morrison & Tony Daniel's* next arc is "The Resurrection of Ra's Al Ghul," it's a safe bet that the answer is yes... but you can find out how beginning in ***Batman #670,*** the prelude to the "Resurrection" arc. And don't miss ***Robin Annual #7,*** which features Damian and ties into the storyline.

Batman has made his choice, and there's a new team of Outsiders ready for action. See them on the frontlines of a massive assault on metahumans in ***Batman & the Outsiders #1*** by *Tony Bedard, Koi Turnbull, & Art Thibert*. But will this war force them to become the supervillains they despise?

"The Sinestro Corps War" hits home in ***Blue Beetle #20*** as a yellow ring appears in El Paso. But is it being offered to the Scarab or to Jaime Reyes?

In *Mark Waid, George Pérez, & Bob Wiacek's* ***Brave & Bold #7,*** Wonder Woman and Power Girl fight side-by-side against a foe who may be more powerful than both of them combined.

The action picks up in ***Countdown #s 30-26.*** Karate Kid confronts Brother Eye! Jimmy Olsen is grabbed by Forager! Shadowpact tries to subdue an out-of-control Mary Marvel! The Crime Syndicate, the Extremists and Monarch gather against the Challengers! Holly and Harley arrive on Paradise Island — and begin their "training"! A lucky coin-toss might have Two-Face save Piper and Trickster from Checkmate! And who is the mysterious— but funny — Jokester? Oh, and Mister Mxyzptlk explains it all!

The most powerful beings on Earth-8 earn their own six-issue limited series in ***Countdown Presents Lord Havok & the Extremists*** by *Frank Tieri & Liam Sharpe*. Lord Havok! Dr. Diehard! Tracer! Gorgon! Dreamslayer! Carny! Meet these dangerous individuals and learn why they are so integral to the fate of the Multiverse!

Witness the origin of the newest Challenger from Beyond, from the world where the heroes are villains, in ***Countdown Presents the Search for Ray Palmer: Crime Syndicate #1*** by *Sean McKeever, Jamal Igle, & Rob Hunter*. But what does that make the bad guys? Can even the Challengers make things right?

Enjoy the first appearances of the villains of ***Countdown*** in the ***Countdown Special: The Flash Eighty-Page Giant,*** which collects ***The Flash #s 106, 113, 155, & 174,*** featuring the first full appearance of the Rogues Gallery, the Trickster, the Pied Piper, and more.

A Monk of the Dark Faith is moving through the DCU, seeding evil in his wake. Trailing him is The Question, who seeks to save the life of the author of a best-selling expose about the Dark Faith. The chase is the focus of ***Crime Bible: The Five Lessons of Blood,*** a five-part miniseries by *Greg Rucka & Tom Mandrake*.

The Zoo Crew returns in *Bill Morrison, Scott Shaw!, & Al Gordon's* ***Captain Carrot & the Final Ark,*** a three-issue ***Countdown*** tie-in miniseries. The team is re-formed to face a threat that begins at the "Sandy Eggo Comic-Con" and quickly menaces the entire world !

All Hallow's Eve is coming... and DC delivers the treat! ***DC Infinite Halloween Special*** features thirteen stories by such creators as *Steve Niles, Mark Waid, Steve Seagle, Dan DiDio, Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, Peter Johnson, David Arquette, Cliff Dorfman, Ian Churchill, Dean Ormston, Dustin Nguyen , & Bernard Chang*. The inmates of Arkham horrify each other with terrifying tales involving Superman and zombies, Batman and vampires, Robin and werewolves, Aquaman and witches, Flash and the dead, and more.

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Writer/artist *Jim Starlin* promises that this eight-part series will live up to its name. ***The Death of the New Gods*** is coming... and the carnage is just beginning!

How did Harley Quinn become in the Amazonian Women's Help Center? Find out in ***Detective Comics #837*** by *Paul Dini, Don Kramer, & Wayne Faucher.*

Apparently everyone isn't happy about Wally's return. In ***Flash #233*** by *Mark Waid, John Rogers, Daniel Acuña, & Doug Braithwaite,* the Justice League steps up to take away the Flash's loved ones in the name of the law! Also in this issue: "The Fast Life" begins, revealing the secrets behind the West Family's otherworldly exile.

Learn about the underbelly of the DC Universe in ***Gotham Underground,*** an eight-part ***Countdown*** tie-in by *Frank Tieri & J. Calafiore.* This miniseries guest-stars Batman, Robin, Nightwing, Batwoman and just about every other Gotham guest-star imaginable. As more and more evildoers seemingly disappear into thin air, Gotham City finds itself in the midst of a villainous vacuum. Who will rise to commandeer the remainder of Gotham's rogues? You're about to find out!...

The new Green Arrow/Black Canary team investigates the shocking results of the Wedding of the Century in the appropriately entitled ***Green Arrow/Black Canary #1*** by *Judd Winick & Cliff Chiang.*

"The Sinestro Corps War" continues as Hal Jordan and the world's greatest heroes struggle against the combined terror of Sinestro, Parallax and the Corps of Fear in ***Green Lantern #24*** by *Geoff Johns, Ivan Reis, & Oclair Albert.* From there, the story continues into *Dave Gibbons, Pat Gleason, & Prentis Rollins'* ***Green Lantern Corps #17.***

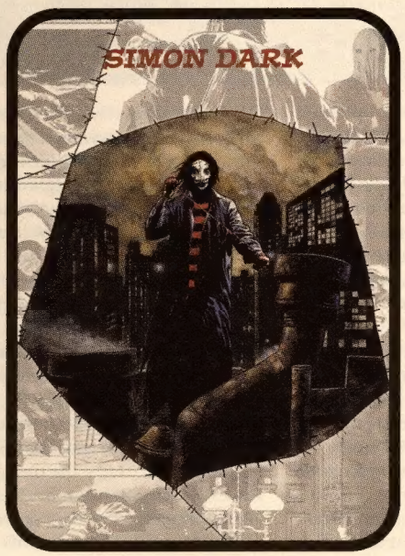
El Diablo and Bat Lash return in ***Jonah Hex #24,*** a Halloween-themed tale of possession and murder in the Wild West.

Alex Ross joins *Geoff Johns* as co-writer for ***Justice Society of America #10,*** the first installment of "Thy Kingdom Come," the epic story years in the making, springing from ***Kingdom Come***! Not a hoax! Not a dream! Not an imaginary story! Welcome the newest member to the Justice Society of America: the Kingdom Come Superman! Coming from an Earth plagued by heroes-gone-extreme, how will this Superman react to an incarnation of the Justice Society he never knew?

The origin of the elemental hero is retold in ***Metamorpho: Year One,*** a six-part miniseries by *Dan Jurgens & Jess Delperdang.* Once he was reality-tv host Rex Mason, travelling the world on behalf of megabillionaire Simon Stagg. When Mason's quest leads him to Egypt to recover the mysterious Orb of Ra, his life is forever changed.

Superman and Batman team up to find out the secret of "The Third Kryptonian" in a three-parter that begins in ***Superman #669*** by *Kurt Busiek, Rick Leonardi, & Dan Green,* and culminates in this year's ***Superman Annual.*** A year ago, Superman learned of another Kryptonian on Earth. Now the hunt goes into overdrive, as the Metropolis Marvel and the Dark Knight Detective's search takes them from China to Gotham City to California and more. Plus, important developments for Superman's foster-son Chris Kent, who also gets to meet Robin the Boy Wonder!

Gotham City has another guardian, a protector known only in whispers — and he's not afraid to get his hands bloody! Meet the mysterious creature of the night who's the star of the eponymous series ***Simon Dark*** by *Steve Niles & Scott Hampton.*



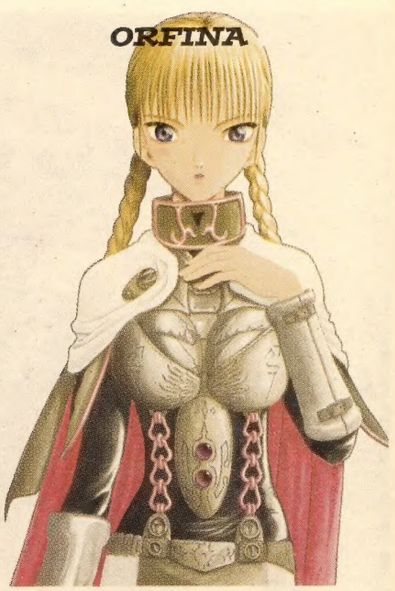
He nearly destroyed the universe. He has a bloody track record with the Flash family. And he frightens even Superman. He is the Anti-Monitor, the most powerful evil in the DC Universe, and *Geoff Johns, Sterling Cates, Pete Woods, & Jerry Ordway* reveal what his future holds in ***Tales of the Sinestro Corps: The Anti-Monitor.***

Hank Henshaw's life is the focus of ***Tales of the Sinestro Corps Presents Cyborg Superman,*** a oneshot by *Alan Burnett, Patrick Blaine, & Jay Leisten.*

Gail Simone takes over as writer of the world's greatest superheroine in ***Wonder Woman #13,*** illustrated by *Terry & Rachel Dodson.* In her first story, Simone explores the truth behind the Circle and the deadly secret they hold regarding Diana's birth. Meanwhile, a familiar face from Wonder Woman's past returns with a mission to spy on Special Agent Diana Prince.

DC's collected editions include:

- ***52 Volume 4,*** collecting the lead stories from ***52 #s 40-52;***
- ***Batman: Death in the City,*** collecting ***Detective #s 827-834;***
- ***Brave & Bold Volume One: Lords of Luck,*** a hardcover collecting ***Brave & Bold #s 1-6;***
- ***ElfQuest Archives Volume Four,*** a full-color hardcover collecting ***ElfQuest #s 16-20*** by *Wendy & Richard Pini;*
- ***Green Arrow: Road to Jericho,*** collecting ***Green Arrow #s 66-75;***
- ***Green Lantern Corps: A Darker Shade of Green,*** collecting ***Green Lantern Corps #s 7-13;***
- ***Hawkgirl: Hawkman Returns,*** collecting ***Hawkgirl #s 57-60*** and ***JSA Classified #s 21-22;***
- ***JLA: Ultramarine Corps,*** collecting ***JLA Classified #s 1-3*** and ***JLA/Wildcats;***
- ***Jonah Hex: Origins,*** collecting ***Jonah Hex #s 13-18;***
- ***Robin: Teenage Wasteland,*** collecting ***Robin #s 154-162;***
- ***Showcase Presents The Secret Society of Super-Villains Volume One,*** collecting the 1970s series along with other villainous adventures;
- ***Showcase Presents Suicide Squad Volume One,*** collecting ***Suicide Squad #s 1-18, Doom Patrol & Suicide Squad Special #1, Secret Origins #14,*** and ***Justice League International #13;***
- ***Spirit Archives Volume 23,*** collecting *Will Eisner* Spirit tales from late 1951;
- ***Supergirl: Identity,*** collecting ***Supergirl #s 10-19*** and the Supergirl tale from ***Infinite Holiday Special;***
- ***Superman: Kryptonite,*** collecting ***Superman Confidential #s 1-6;***
- ***Tales of the Batman: Tim Sale,*** a hardcover collection of early Batman tales illustrated by the acclaimed artist;
- ***Teen Titans Go!: Titans Together,*** a full-sized collection of ***Teen Titans Go! #s 27-32;***
- ***Wonder Woman: Amazons Attack,*** collecting the six-issue miniseries; and
- ***World War III,*** collecting the four-issue miniseries that ties in with ***52 Week 50.***



Coming Comics—CMX/DC in October

A young girl must fulfill her destiny or a kingdom will fall in ***Orfina Volume One,*** a fantasy tale by *Kitsune Tennouji.*

A college girl with an infatuation for the boy of her dreams is about to discover that love comes with unexpected complications in ***Venus in Love Volume One*** by *Yuki Nakaji.*

The world's most colorful birds, and the wizards who have the ability to "borrow" color from one object and paint its qualities on another, are the focus of ***The Palette of 12 Secret Colors Volume One*** by *Nari Kusakawa.*

Coming Comics—WildStorm/DC in October

Christos Gage & Darick Robertson turn their attention to ***WildStorm's*** most provocative superteam in ***The Authority: Prime.*** StormWatch Prime has finally managed to crack the infamous Henry Bendix's encrypted "memory tower" and located a mysterious bunker hidden the Southwest desert. Knowing that anything springing from Bendix's brilliant, twisted mind could prove either invaluable or catastrophic, they immediately head for the bunker. But The Authority are watching, too, and want what's in the bunker for themselves...

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CSN Debut

PRESENTS

The Art of P. Craig Russell

(Desperado Publishing MAY073373/74 $49.99/$79.99 signed)

P. Craig Russell ranks right up there as one of comics' most distinctive and influential talents—so distinctive and influential, in fact, that it's amazing that no one has assembled a comprehensive look at his career before now!

The Art of P. Craig Russell *almost* happened a decade and a half ago. "I started planning this book about fifteen years ago, when I was doing a lot of work for Eclipse Comics," Russell said. "At the time it was to be a twenty year retrospective. Now it's thirty-five! I designed a prototype of the book back then, but that was just about the time Eclipse went under, so the book went into the files."

Joe Pruett knew that he wanted this book to appear under the Desperado imprint—and he knew that he wanted the book to be something exceptional. "When I first began to think about starting a publishing company, I was also going through a phase of purchasing art books. I picked up the two *Barry Windsor-Smith* ***Opus*** volumes, a couple of *Frank Frazetta* and *Jeff Jones* books, an old copy of ***The Studio***, etc. What I noticed was that while the pictures were great to look at, there wasn't much on the individual artists in terms of who they were. In fact, a few such books were nothing more than glorified pin-up books. I wanted to know *about* the artist as much as I wanted to look at their work.

"I started thinking of artists with long and successful careers who could be the subject of just such a book. *Brian Bolland* and *P. Craig Russell* both fit the bill, so I approached them and things proceeded from there." ***The Art of Brian Bolland*** appeared last summer; ***The Art of P. Craig Russell*** will debut later this summer.

Pruett offered a synopsis of Russell's amazing career. "His professional career began at Marvel Comics in the early 1970's on such memorable titles such as ***Ant-Man, Chamber of Chills***, and, ultimately, ***Amazing Adventures***, where his Killraven became his signature work of his early career. Since that time he's moved on projects that touch his heart such as his opera adaptations, including his magnum opus, ***The Ring***, and numerous collaborations with Neil Gaiman, including the 2008 release of his adaptation of ***Coraline***."

Who were Russell's influences? "Late 19th and early 20th century illustrators like *Kay Neilsen, Arthur Rackham, Harry Clarke*, and *Edmund Dulac*," Russell said. "Graphic storytellers like *Eisner, Steranko, Krigstein*, and *Windsor-Smith*. Disney animation, particularly the design work of *Eyvind Earle* (*Sleeping Beauty*). *Dr. Seuss.* And just about everything else I've ever seen."

Pruett set out to make this book a treat for fans of Russell's work—and th rarely seen and previousl complement the text and "There's an eighteen pag sketchbooks, and behind- sprinkled liberally throug vant sections," Russell sa half dozen new pieces I d book. There's also a secti attempts at comics and e of this stuff hasn't been s couple of pages of *Neil G* ***Endless: Death in Venice*** pages of art. There sketch poster for the American I a full page repro of the p think has been seen outsi section on the nearly two done for Bridge records.

meant tracking down unpublished work to e published highlights. ection devoted to the e-scenes sketches are ut the book in the rele- "There are about a exclusively for the on early work, my first illustrations. Most all before. There's also a *an's* script for ***The*** ngside the finished for the Sandman ary Association, plus r itself which I don't of libraries. There's a zen album covers I've re's also about a twen-ty page section on unfinished or abandoned projects, with both finished and layout art for ***The Age of Desire, Slaughterhouse 5,*** and ***Killraven***. I think we struck a nice balance between the retrospective, previously published art (some of which is still pretty obscure), and behind-the-scenes material."

The Art of P. Craig Russell proved to be a collaborative project and a labor of love for both me. "I felt like we were joined at the hip for the past three months," Pruett said. "We actually started working on the book about three or so years ago. I made two trips to his house back then and we started breaking the book up into chapters. Other things got in the way for a while, but about four months ago, Craig and I put the time aside to finish the book.

"A lot of the design work is Craig's. He had a clear vision of how he wanted the book to look, from the size of it (square), to what images were and weren't included, etc. I did all the grunt work on the computer, but he was the director."

"When Joe and I started talking about doing a book, I began designing sections of it in the only way I know how: with rubber cement and an exacto knife," Russell explained. "I did a full-size thirty-page mockup of the ***Ring of the Nibelung*** section complete with black and white and color xeroxes; it remains virtually unchanged in the finished book. I also designed the *Oscar Wilde* section, which underwent more changes once we started working on it. There were maybe another dozen mockup pages for other sections and then I did a lot of thumbnail designs for the rest of the book.

"Joe made four trips from Georgia to Ohio to work with me and I made one trip down to Georgia, where we put in five long workdays. We worked shoulder to shoulder the entire time. I know nothing about Photoshop and Adobe Acrobat and all that. I designed on paper, made scans, etc., and Joe realized the whole thing on the computer. I'd sit and write text, he'd type it in ,and then we'd both discuss it's placement on the page. Sometimes my original designs—which always seemed to be a good idea at the time—wouldn't work out when they went up on the screen, so we'd begin taking things apart and throwing new things up. Then we'd sit and stare until one of us made a grumpy noise and we'd start all over. Sometimes we'd throw something up and we'd both know immediately that it worked. This is my idea of having fun. We had a great time!"

The Art of P. Craig Russell is slated for late August/early September release. "I'm very proud of this book," Pruett said. "It does justice to the incredible career that Craig has had over the last thirty-five years. That's hard to do, but this volume succeeds."

In a devastating vision of tomorrow, the apocalypse comes to the WildStorm Universe in ***Midnighter: Armageddon*** by *Christos Gage & Simon Coleby*. The Wildcats' Void mysteriously returns and transports the Midnighter to a not-so-distant future in which London has been destroyed — by the crashed wreckage of the Authority's dimension-shifting Carrier!

Trick 'R Treat, a four-issue weekly horror miniseries by *Marc Andreyko, Fiona Staples, Grant Bond, & Mike Huddleston*, is a series of horror shorts based on the upcoming film by *Michael Dougherty*.

WildStorm collected editions include:

- ***Ex Machina Volume Six: Power Down,*** collecting ***Ex Machina #s 26-29;***
- ***Midnighter Volume One: Killing Machine,*** collecting ***Midnighter #s 1-6;***

Coming Comics— Minx/DC in October

Join in the quest to locate the world's first digital girl in ***Kimmie 66,*** a graphic novel by *Aaron Alexovich*. Telly Kade is determined to find out what happened to her friend Kimmie66, who left a suicide note. But if Kimmie is really dead, why is she still all over the net? Is it a ghost, prank, or something much creepier?

Coming Comics— Vertigo/DC in October

Si Spencer, Simon Gane, & Cameron Stewart take readers into the darker corners of London in the crime-noir fantasy series ***The Vinyl Underground.*** An unlikely quartet of occult detectives secretly solve crimes — from DJ crack bars in Camden to the elegant, high-society ballrooms that make up modern London. The Vinyl Underground is led by Morrison Shepherd, a D-list celebrity darling, soul DJ, and son of an ex-footballer. Fresh out of prison and off a nasty coke habit, Morrison is joined by a fellow ex-con named Perv, whose seizures give him clues to crimes long before the cops, and Leah, a gorgeous morgue assistant who leads a double life online and represents the brawn of the team.

Vertigo collected editions include:

- ***American Virgin Volume Three: Wet,*** collecting ***American Virgin #s 10-14;*** and
- ***Testament Volume Three: Babel,*** collecting ***Testament #s 11-16.***

Coming from DC Direct in March 2008

Frank Miller's art is the inspiration for the next ***Batman: Black & White Statue,*** which captures the stark, stylish look of Miller's Dark Knight.

Justice League of America Series 2 offers four more action figures based on the art of *Ed Benes:* ***Hawkgirl, Dr. Impossible, Batman,*** and ***Amazo.***

Batman, Wonder Woman, Superman, and ***Hawkman*** return with the release of ***Reactivated! Series Four: Super Squad,*** offering classic versions of Batman and Wonder Woman along with Earth 2 versions of Superman and Hawkman.

Let's get small! The seventh wave of ***DC Minimates*** includes ***Gorilla Grodd & The Flash, Lobo & Ambush Bug,*** and ***Clayface & Batman.***

Terry Dodson's art is the inspiration for the ***Women of the DC Universe Series 2: Starfire Bust,*** sculpted by *Jack Mathews*.

Coming Comics— Marvel in October

His radar sense rendered useless by a bad case of the flu, Daredevil has to enlist the aid of the Black Tarantula to solve a murder case in ***Daredevil Annual #1*** by *Ed Brubaker, Ande Parks, & Roy Allen Martinez.*

Trying to escape from the Zombies, the new Fantastic Four take a detour into the Sub-Atomica Universe in ***Black Panther #31...*** And as you might have guessed, that mean's it's time to face off against Psycho-Man!

The original FF are back together in ***Fantastic Four #551...*** just in time to cross paths with a hero who has traveled twenty years into the past in a desperate attempt to save his future from Reed Richards, the madman who is about to change the face of the planet. Oh, and the hero who has come back to save the world? His name is Doctor Doom...

A vigilante who's even more brutal than the Punisher?... Meet him in ***Foolkiller,*** a five-parter by best-selling novelist *Gregg Hurwitz* and artist *Lan Medina*. A vigilante artist, a madman performer, the Foolkiller has been brutally introduced to the human joke... and he wants to make sure fools everywhere take note.

World War Hulk is about to have dire consequences for one team—and you'll see just how dire in ***Heroes for Hire #15.*** Who will live? Who will die? Who will get mad and quit? The answers are in here!

Ty Templeton & Juan Bobillo unleash their fowl scheme in ***Howard the Duck,*** a four-part miniseries that follows Howard as he and Beverly begin their journey to destroy the internet, radio, and television.

What's in the works from Marvel's MAX line? Find out in the ***Marvel MAX Sampler,*** a specially-priced issue that spotlights current titles and spills the beans on some of the line's forthcoming projects.

Bring out your dead—that's just what Marvel is doing in ***Marvel Zombies 2 #1,*** a five-parter by *Robert Kirkman & Sean Phillips* that picks up forty years after the zombies' departure from their homeworld. They've eaten their way across the universe, and now they're back on Earth... but what awaits them is something the zombies never envisioned! (And yes, *Arthur Suydam* is still supplying those zombified covers...)

Paul Jenkins & Paolo Rivera offer a look at the origins of Marvel's first family in ***Mythos: Fantastic Four.***

In *Brian Bendis & Leinil Yu's* ***New Avengers #35,*** the Hood makes his play for the big time by gathering the most ruthless rogues gallery of evil the Marvel Universe has ever seen. What does a guy who wants to be the "Kingpin of all super-villains" do to make his point? You have to see it to believe it.

Best-selling novelist *Jonathan Lethem* joins with artist *Karl Rusnak* to present the story of a reluctant, mute superhero from another planet in ***Omega the Unknown,*** a ten-part series. ***Omega,*** originally created by *Steve Gerber & Mary Skrenes* more than three decades ago, made quite an impression on the young Lethem, who revisits the original concept, using it as a springboard for a strange, funny, and moving tale.

With World War Hulk in full swing and New York shut off from the outside world, who's left to protect those left behind? Frank Castle, that's who—and he's none too thrilled, as you'll see in ***Punisher War Journal #12.*** As Mung the Inconceivable rampages through lower Manhattan, Frank and Clarke help a small band of refugees hold back his relentless onslaught.

J. Michael Straczynski & Joe Quesada's "One More Day" continues in ***Sensational Spider-Man #41***—and everything is about to change for Peter Parker. At his darkest hours – and he's had plenty – Peter has always had one shoulder to lean on, one person who'd remind him who he is, who he was, and who he can be. Now he's about to lose that person...

Peter David comes on board as writer beginning with ***She-Hulk #22,*** joining artist *Shawn Moll* for a tale that sends the world's most dangerous lawyer on the world's most dangerous job.

Doctor Strange is feeling a little bit under the weather, and it's up to Spidey to help him get better in time to fight off a *major* demonic assault in ***Spider-Man Family #5.***

Thor is back... he's reclaimed Mjolnir... he's rebuild Asgard from the ground up. Now, who will populate the home of the gods? Find out in *J. Michael Straczynski & Olivier Coipel's* ***Thor #4...*** and prepare to be surprised!

Sue is missing en route to Siberia, forcing Reed to abandon his completion of the Cosmic Cube to confront the Ultimate Crimson Dynamo in "Ghosts," a three-parter by *Mike Carey & Mark Brooks* that begins in ***Ultimate Fantastic Four #47.***

Ultimate Power comes to an end with the ninth issue—and what an ending it is! Just wait 'til you see what happens to the world of the Squadron Supreme when the Ultimates cut loose.

At last, the final showdown between the X-Men and the terrorist branch of the Morlocks is here—and you can see how it turns out in ***Uncanny X-Men #491.***. and you'll also see what part the former Master of Magnetism plays in the outcome.

After Wolverine is reduced to a brain-dead vegetable, you might think his story is over... but *Marc Guggenheim & Howard Chaykin* have something else in the works, and they'll reveal all in ***Wolverine #58.***

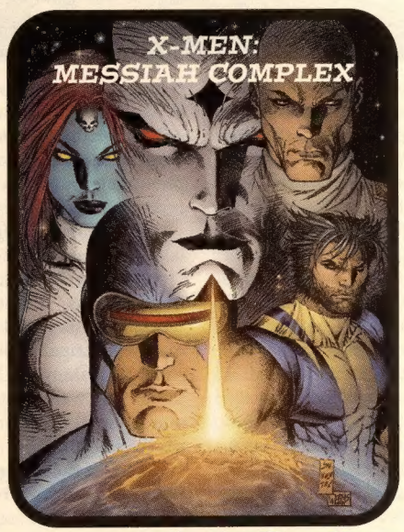
What if the Hulk had landed on the peaceful planet that the Illuminati intended rather than a brutal warrior world? *Greg Pak, Rafa Sandovari, & Cafu* offer a thought-provoking answer to that question in ***What If? Planet Hulk,*** a forty-eight-page special that offers three different glimpses at just how different things could have been...

The final issue of *Greg Pak & John Romita Jr's* ***World War Hulk*** ships in October, depicting the Hulk's encounter with the humans' greatest champion. As the terrible battle rages, who will stand revealed as the hero – and who will be proved the monster? The saga spills over into ***Incredible Hulk #111***—but Marvel's keeping the contents of that issue top secret!

Best-selling novelist *Gregg Hurwitz* joins with artist *Marcelo Frusin* for a self-contained story that finds Wolverine on the trail of a bank robber responsible for the deaths of a dozen innocent bystanders in ***Wolverine Annual: Deathsong.***

Psylocke's reunion with her brother, Captain Britain, takes a turn for the worst when the diabolic minds of several of Excalibur's greatest foes decide that one world is not enough to conquer. The Exiles and Excalibur must join forces to save crosstime in the two-part ***X-Men: Die By the Sword*** by *Chris Claremont & Juan Santacruz.*

Just when it looked like there was no possibility of a future for mutants, hope arrives. But the X-Men aren't there to meet it—The Marauders and Purifiers beat them to it. Now the race is on to get the first new mutant since ***House of M***—and you can watch the race begin in ***X-Men: Messiah Complex,*** a oneshot by *Ed Brubaker & Marc Silvestri* that continues into virtually every X-book for the next few months.



Marvel's collected editions for October include:

•***Annihilation Books One & Two,*** a pair of trade paperbacks of the collections previously available in hardcover;

•***Avengers Assemble Volume Five,*** a hardcover compilation of *Kurt Busiek's* ***Avengers #s 41-56 & Annual 2001,*** featuring art by *Alan Davis, Brent Anderson, Yanick Paquette,* and others;

•***Black Panther: Four the Hard Way,*** collecting ***Black Panther #s 26-30;***

•***Blade: Sins of the Father,*** collecting ***Blade #s 7-12;***

•***Essential Moon Knight Volume Two,*** collecting ***Moon Knight #s 11-30*** in black and white;

•***Essential Werewolf by Night Volume Two,*** collecting ***Werewolf by Night #s 21-43, Giant-Size Werewolf by Night #s 2-5, & Marvel Premiere #28*** in black and white;

•***Fallen Son: The Death of Captain America,*** a hardcover collecting the five *Jeph Loeb*-written oneshots;

•***Immortal Iron Fist Volume One: The Last Iron Fist Story,*** collecting ***Immortal Iron Fist #s 1-6;***

•***Jack Kirby's Galactic Bounty Hunters,*** a hardcover compilation of the six-part series;

•***Legion of Monsters,*** collecting the four oneshots along with a heaping helping of classic Marvel monster-hero tales from the past;

•***Magician Apprentice Volume One,*** a trade paperback collection of the first six issues of the *Raymond E. Feist* series;

•***Marvel Adventures Iron Man Volume One: Heart of Steel,*** collecting the first four issues in digest format;

•***Marvel Masterworks Fantastic Four Volume Six,*** a long-requested reissue of one of the hardest-to-find of all Masterworks;

•***Marvel Masterworks Atlas Era Strange Tales Volume One,*** collecting the first ten issues of the early-50's horror series (see last issue of *CSN* for more on this book);

•***Marvel Masterworks Avengers Volume Seven,*** collecting ***Avengers #s 59-68 & Marvel Super-Heroes #17;***

•***Marvel Zombies: The Covers,*** a 96-page hardcover featuring all of *Arthur Suydam's* zombified pieces, along with zombie-themed covers from *Greg Land & Kyle Hotz,* as well as some never-before-seen extras;

•***Ms. Marvel Volume Three: Operation Lightning Storm,*** collecting ***Ms. Marvel #s 11-17;***

•***Omega the Unknown,*** a trade collecting the short-lived 1970's title that's the inspiration for *Jonathan Lethem's* new series;

•***She-Hulk Volume Five: Planet Without a Hulk,*** collecting ***She Hulk 2 #s 14-21;***

•***Spider-Girl Volume Nine,*** collecting ***Spider-Girl #s 45-50;***

•***Spider-Man: Back in Black,*** a hardcover compilation of ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 539-543*** and ***Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man #s 17-23 & Annual #1;***

•***Spider-Man & the Fantastic Four: Silver Rage,*** collecting the four-issue miniseries;

•***Spider-Man Loves Mary Jane Volume Four: Still Friends,*** collecting ***Spidey Loves Mary Jane #s 16-20;***

•***Wolverine: Evolution,*** a hardcover collecting ***Wolverine #s 50-55,*** offered in either a full-color or a black and white edition (take your pick—or splurge and get both!);

•***X-Factor Volume Three: Many Lives of Madrox,*** collecting ***X-Factor v2 #s 13-17;*** and

•***X-Factor Visionaries: Peter Davis Volume Three,*** collecting ***X-Factor #s 79-83 & Annual #7.***

CSNquiry

•"What's a skip week? The staff at the comic shop made reference to a skip week like I was supposed to know what it was, but I don't have any idea what they meant..." —Curtis Randall

There's a good reason you don't know what a skip week is, Curtis: we don't have 'em any more. What we *do* have are "five Wednesday months" (and in fact, you're in one of them right now, since August has five Wednesdays!).

Publishers plan for one issue of most comic book series each month. Generally, that means a new issue every four weeks (assuming that the creators are doing their job, of course). Every three months or so, those extra days in each month pile up and a fifth Wednesday pops up on the calendar. The publishers still only have one monthly issue of most books, but they have an extra Wednesday in that month to play with. As a result, most publishers will release fewer slightly fewer titles each week during a five-Wednesday month.

So where'd the whole "skip week" thing come from? Well, long time ago, publishers would release virtually nothing on that extra week, creating one *extremely* skimpy new-comics day. Nowadays, though, publishers are tuned into the readership's schedule, so they deliver a selection of new releases every Wednesday (even if there are slightly fewer releases each week during a five-Wednesday month).

Of course, not *every* title sees an extra week between issues. DC's weekly books like ***52*** and ***Countdown*** ship every week regardless of the number of Wednesdays—and for several years, *Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley* produced sixteen or more issues of ***Ultimate Spider-Man*** every year, with only three weeks between issues on average.

Next time someone mentions skip weeks, though, you can correct 'em; those things went away with moonwalking and leg warmers!

•"What became of this reprint of Stan Lee & John Romita's 1977-1979 ***Spider-Man*** *comic strip? It was due out in June, I thought, but neither local comic shops, a Google search or Marvel online has news about it." —Vinny Bellizia*

Good news: acording to Marvel's senior VP of sales and publishing *David Gabriel,* the book will still appear; it was "just pushed back awaiting all the corrected files. We'll re solicit when it is ready... it *is* still being worked on."

(Have a question? E-mail it to csnquiry@comicshop-news.com and we'll try to get an answer!)

PREVIEWS

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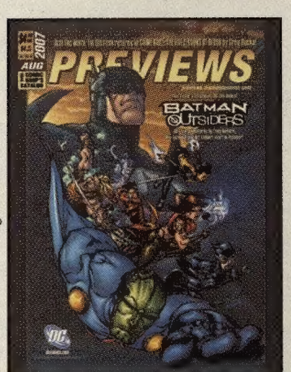

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BATMAN & THE OUTSIDERS #1—Tony Bedard and Koi Turnbull launch a bold new direction for the DCU's misfit heroes! The rules have changed all over the DC Universe — but for *The Outsiders,* they're still just things that were made to be broken!

MCFARLANE'S DRAGONS SERIES 7—McFarlane Toys' best-selling *McFarlane's Dragons* returns with *Series 7,* featuring the centerpiece sculpt of the mix — the awesome three-headed *Hydra Dragon Ultimate Boxed Set!*

540+ pages of cool stuff that starts shipping in October!

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CHECK OUT THESE OFFERINGS:

Living with the Dead #1—Two survivors of a global catastrophe disguise themselves as corpses to survive in a land of the walking dead in Mike Richardson's hilariously frightening tale of survival horror! Featuring covers by comics legend Richard Corben!

Green Arrow/Black Canary #1—The new *Green Arrow/ Black Canary* team investigates the shocking results of the "Wedding of the Century" in this all-new adventure series by Judd Winick and Cliff Chiang!

Youngblood Volume 1 HC—You thought it would never happen! Rob Liefeld returns to Image Comics — and he's bringing *Youngblood* with him! This re-mastered, re-scripted, re-imagined hardcover finally collects the first historic issues of the very first, million-selling Image Comic!

She-Hulk #22—It's a new direction for the lean, green fighting machine as longtime *Hulk* writer, Peter David, takes the helm as the world's most dangerous lawyer takes on the world's most dangerous job!

AND BE SURE NOT TO MISS:

- **Women of the DCU2: Starfire Bust** from DC Direct!
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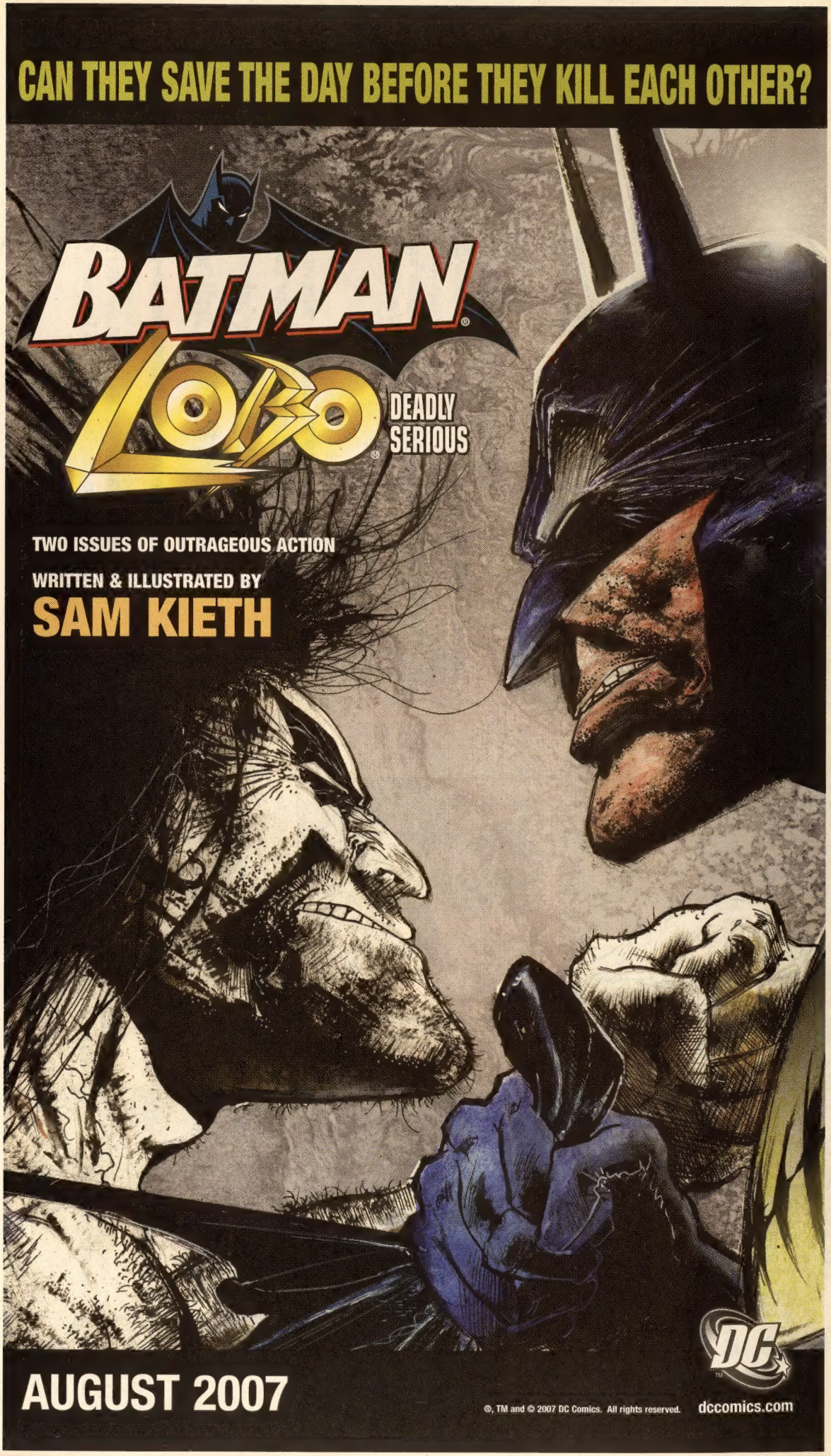

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